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PROGRAM-RELATED QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of this program?

*The **International Fulbright Science and Technology Award** (S&T Award) for outstanding foreign students is designed to be among the most prestigious international scholarships in science and technology. Growing out of the January 2006 U.S. University Presidents Summit on International Education (<http://www.exchanges.state.gov/universitysummit/>), the S&T Award demonstrates the United States' commitment to remaining the premier destination for serious scientific study and research and its welcoming of top-notch leaders to shape their careers at its colleges and universities.*

The S&T Award allows recipients to obtain doctorate degrees at top U.S. colleges and universities with programs of study in the fields listed below. For 2012, approximately 40 awards will be competed worldwide for candidates who demonstrate unique aptitude and innovation in scientific fields.

What are the eligible fields?

- *Aeronautics and Astronomics/Aeronautical Engineering*
- *Agriculture*
- *Astronomy/Planetary Sciences*
- *Biology*
- *Biomedical Engineering*
- *Chemistry*
- *Computer Sciences/Engineering*
- *Energy*
- *Engineering (electrical, chemical, civil, mechanical, ocean, and petroleum)*
- *Environmental Science/Engineering*
- *Geology/Earth and Atmospheric Sciences*
- *Information Sciences/Engineering*
- *Materials Science/Engineering*
- *Mathematics*
- *Neuroscience/Brain and Cognitive Sciences*
- *Oceanography*
- *Physics*
- *Public Health*

What benefits does the S&T Award provide?

Selected grantees will be funded for up to three years and will receive the following:

- *testing vouchers for TOEFL, GRE General and GRE Subject exams*
- *tuition and fee coverage,*
- *a monthly stipend,*
- *book and equipment allowance,*
- *research allowance,*
- *professional conference allowance,*
- *travel support,*
- *health and accident coverage, and*
- *specially tailored enrichment activities.*

After three years, the host U.S. university will be expected to cover the remaining expenses toward completion of the Ph.D. J-1 visa sponsorship will be provided for up to five years.

How are universities committed to funding the students after the three years? What happens if the student cannot secure funding and is left in the middle of his/her Ph.D.?

The Institute of International Education, which is responsible for applying on your behalf and securing placement after final U.S. Department of State approval, will also be responsible for securing the commitment for funding from the university after the three years of Fulbright support.

When will the next competition and program begin?

Applications for the next competition will begin to be accepted starting February 1, 2012. Check with the Fulbright Program in Vietnam for the last possible date to apply. This will vary from country to country. Finalists will be identified by mid-October 2012 and will begin their U.S. study in academic year 2013-2014, which at most U.S. universities begins in August or September.

Is there an allowance for dependents?

*There will **not** be additional funding to support dependents of S&T participants. Check with the Fulbright Program in Vietnam to learn if dependents are allowed to join participants in the U.S.*

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS QUESTIONS

What are the eligible requirements for applying?

Applicants must be Vietnamese citizens and must apply through the Fulbright Program in Vietnam.

Applicants must have completed a bachelor's degree (comparable to a U.S. bachelor's degree) on or before August 2012. It is highly recommended that the applicant have received his/her bachelor's degree in the same or a related field for which he/she plans to pursue Ph.D. study.

Applicants must have a minimum TOEFL iBT score of 92 or IELTS 7.0. Without a TOEFL/IELTS score report, your applications will be considered incomplete, and therefore, will not be considered for the Program

Can a student with only a bachelor's degree be admitted to science and technology Ph.D. programs in the U.S.?

***Yes.** Bachelor's degree holders can apply for Ph.D. study in the U.S., especially in science and technology fields. Generally, applicants in the hard sciences are admitted directly into Ph.D. programs and achieve the master's degree while working on the PhD; in fact, many top programs do not offer terminal master's degree and only admit into the PhD track.*

***Note:** Program policies in the U.S. can vary widely from institution to institution. As mentioned, some programs may award a master's degree to students as they work toward the Ph.D. In other cases, programs may admit students to a master's level program first. While you can expect to see variations in policies, in almost all cases, Ph.D. students need to go through a Ph.D. candidacy review prior to starting the final stages of their Ph.D. study and dissertation research.*

Can a student working on or who has completed a master's degree program apply?

***Yes.** Completing a bachelor's degree is the minimum requirement. Applicants can also be enrolled in or have completed master's degree work in the same or a related field. In fact, the host U.S. institution may grant graduate transfer credit toward a grantee's Ph.D. studies.*

Can a student currently enrolled in a Ph.D. degree who intends to only pursue non-degree coursework or dissertation research in the U.S. apply?

***No.** This award is for students who intend to complete their Ph.D. degree in the U.S. However students enrolled in Ph.D. study who want to enroll in a U.S. university and complete their degree in the U.S. are eligible.*

Can a student who is currently studying in the U.S. apply?

***No.** A student cannot be currently studying in the U.S.*

Can a student who has previously studied in the U.S. at the postsecondary level apply?

Yes. A student who has previously studied in the U.S. at the postsecondary level can apply for the program.

Can a student who has received a previous Fulbright award apply?

No. Per FSB Policy 521.3, no applicant may receive more than one Fulbright student award in a lifetime.

Can a student apply for both Fulbright Foreign Student Program and the S&T Award Program?

No. The Fulbright Foreign Student Program in Vietnam does not support grants in S&T fields.

What documents are needed to apply?

An online application (available at: <http://apply.embark.com/student/fulbright/international>) which includes:

1. A clear written research objective essay
2. A personal statement essay
3. A Professional CV/resume
4. Three letters of reference
5. Official degrees and academic transcripts from each post-secondary institution attended (with notarized English translations)
6. TOEFL or IELTS or other English language proficiency certificates
7. Signature form (upload a sign and scanned copy to the online application)

If I am selected, what happens next?

You will be informed by the Fulbright Program in Vietnam. You will work with staff at the Institute of International Education (IIE) in New York who will apply on your behalf to U.S. universities. You are encouraged to suggest programs to which you wish applications be submitted; a university preference page has been included in the application for you to identify programs. An IIE placement staff member will work closely you to ensure that your application is being sent to program that will be the best possible academic fit for you.

Are there any requirements/qualifications for referees?

Letters of reference are extremely important. All letters of reference should be written by teachers under whom you have studied or pursued research or by someone who has supervised you in work related to your proposed field of study. Letters of reference should not be written by persons related to you either by blood or marriage or by personal friends. At least one academic and one professional or work related letter should be included among the letters. The letters should be written in English if possible. If they are not, an original English translation must be provided.

Can a student recommend alternative referees if any of recommended referees turns down to write reference letter?

Yes. However, you should always coordinate with your referees to make sure that they write reference letters for you.

Can a student who is currently studying in a foreign country apply?

All candidates who are studying in any foreign country outside the U.S. and meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to apply

Does a student living in a foreign country have any disadvantages in selecting process in comparison with those who are living in Vietnam?

No. All candidates are treated equally.

Does the program require candidates to have excellent bachelor's degree to be eligible to apply?

No. We do not require candidates to have excellent bachelor's degree to be eligible to apply. As per our policy, all candidates who have a bachelor's degree by August 1, 2012 are eligible to apply for the Program.